

Ch 1 Sorry, Best Friend

Word Meanings and Synonyms

1. Cowering

Meaning: Shrinking back in fear; showing fear or nervousness

Synonyms:

Cringing

Shrinking

Trembling

Quailing

Flinching

2. Estranged

Meaning: No longer close or affectionate; emotionally separated

Synonyms:

Alienated

Separated

Divided

Disconnected

Detached

3. Dissipate

Meaning: To gradually disappear or scatter

Synonyms:

Disperse

Fade

Vanish

Evaporate

Scatter

4. Endured

Meaning: Suffered patiently; tolerated something difficult

Synonyms:

Tolerated

Withstood

Bore

Survived

Sustained

5. Empathise

Meaning: To understand and share another person's feelings

Synonyms:

Understand

Relate to

Sympathise

Connect with

Identify with

6. Procure

Meaning: To obtain or get something, often with effort

Synonyms:

Obtain

Acquire

Secure

Get

Gain

7. Bewildered

Meaning: Confused and unable to understand

Synonyms:

Confused

Puzzled

Perplexed

Baffled

Disoriented

8. Dejected

Meaning: Sad and disappointed

Synonyms:

Disheartened

Downcast

Depressed

Gloomy

Miserable

9. Hapless

Meaning: Unfortunate or unlucky

Synonyms:

Unlucky

Unfortunate

Helpless

Miserable

Ill-fated

10. Embittered

Meaning: Filled with anger or resentment

Synonyms:

Resentful

Bitter

Angry

Aggrieved

Hostile

b. anxiety

2. mature, understanding

3. a. She was terribly thin and not very clean.

OR

"How can she go to school, Baba? She does all the housework!"

b. The little girl crouched in the corner, bent "What's your name?"

OR

The little girl looked frightened!

4. Rahiman was quiet and remained cowering in a corner. She looked frightened and was not ready to answer any queries. Even when she spoke, it was barely in whispers.

5. Sonu's mother took him to visit Rahiman for two reasons. She wanted the feelings of hatred and bitterness that had estranged Rahiman and Sonu to dissipate. The children needed to understand each other, and Sonu needed to understand that what he had done was wrong. Moreover, she also wanted Sonu to understand the conditions of Rahiman's life and the hardships she endured daily. He needed to empathise with her. 6. The money that Sonu's mother had given the child had helped them to procure books and uniforms. This made it possible for Rahiman to go to school.

POST READING A.

1. Sonu is being referred to here. Sonu was alone as he and his mother had shifted to Bombay from Delhi, as his mother had taken a job in Bombay. They lived alone, as the rest of their family lived in Bombay. Moreover, since schools were still closed. Sonu remained all alone at home, while his mother went to office.

2. Sonu watched TV for a while or read on the balcony. Sometimes, he would spend time looking at the road. Eating and sleeping also took up some time.

3. Sonu's mother had given him a list of instructions. He was not to open the door except to let Bai in. He was also told to check who was at the door in case there was a knock. He was forbidden from using the gas stove as well as leaning out of the balcony. His mother also asked him to remember to eat lunch on time.

4. The situation changed when Bai started bringing her daughter Rahiman to Sonu's house. Sonu and Rahiman became friends quickly, and the day passed in no time.

B. 1 Sonu's mother says this to him She had handed Sonu some money that was to be given to Rahiman. Sonu wanted to know why she was giving her the money. This was Sonu's mother's response

2. Sonu concluded that Rahiman played with him because she was being paid to do so. This upset him terribly For all this time, Sonu had believed that Rahiman was his friend and spent time with him because she wanted to

3. This was an incorrect conclusion. Rahiman enjoyed playing with Sonu and considered him to be a friend, initially, she used to come to his house because it was convenient for her mother to bring her along Soon, however she began to enjoy her stay. As Sonu's mother realised that this was good for her son she suggested that the child come to her house every day. The money she received was a kind gesture from Sonu's mother who knew that this would come of use to her. As a result of the incorrect conclusion, Sonu started misbehaving with Rahiman, who could not understand the reason for his bad behaviour.

4. Yes, we may conclude that the speaker was partly responsible. She did not really mean to suggest that the money was Rahiman's payment for coming over and playing with her son. Perhaps, if she had explained that it was a gift to help the family, Sonu would not have misunderstood

C. 1 Rahiman was playfully snatching a book from Sonu when he reacted sharply. He said that she should not touch the book, as, after all, she did not know how to read or write.

2. Her behaviour suggests that she was hurt and could not understand why her friend, Sonu, was behaving so rudely. This sudden change in his behaviour left her bewildered and dejected

3. Sonu has been referred to as him

4. From one perspective, his behaviour is unacceptable as it is mean and rude. He had been absolutely elated to have Rahiman around and they had been playing together. The hapless girl had no clue as to what she had done to deserve this ill-treatment. However, we should understand Sonu was hurting too. He was imagining that Rahiman was playing with him because she was being paid. This realisation, albeit misguided, was like a slap on his face

D. Earlier, Sonu was bored and did not know how best to spend his time. With Rahiman's arrival and company everything changed. Sonu was happy. The two children played together, and made up new games that kept them both occupied. They spent the whole day together, thoroughly enjoying each other's company, The contrast being established is how slowly time had passed when Sonu was alone, and how it was moving at the speed of light now that he had a friend.

E. On the Sunday immediately after Sonu's behaviour had changed, his mother took him and Rahiman to the beach. As Sonu was still angry, he walked ahead of them. At the beach both children settled down to build sandcastles. Rahiman's castle was beautiful with domes and arches. Even Sonu recognised that it was beautiful, but that made him angry. Sonu's castle was not even ready, Sonu's mother complimented Rahiman and soon after, Sonu rushed forward and, in a fit of rage, destroyed it. A fight ensued and the two hit each other. Sonu's mother had a difficult time calming them down. The young boy was feeling very upset and confused. He had not discussed his thoughts with his mother and so the misunderstanding had remained. The fact that Rahiman had done a brilliant job of building the sandcastle and had been praised by his mother only embittered him further and angered him. His pent-up emotions burst out as blind uncontrolled rage.

F. Sonu's mother does come across as a kind and sensible person. Her concern for her Bai and Rahiman is genuine. She is not the kind of Mother who would gloss over her son's faults. She did not rave and rant, or yell at Sonu, but instead wanted Sonu to explain his behaviour. The reason why she insisted that he visit Rahiman's home is also clear. After all, he needed to understand their reality. Although his behaviour was inexcusable, he was still a child who did not understand. He needed to be exposed to the truth in order to be sensitised.

Value based

1. What does Sonu's misunderstanding about the money teach us about the importance of communication and trust in relationships?

Answer: Sonu's misunderstanding shows how lack of clear communication can damage relationships. He wrongly assumed that Rahiman was being paid to be his friend, which hurt his feelings and led him to behave rudely. This teaches us that we should not jump to conclusions without understanding the full truth. Open communication helps build trust and prevents unnecessary conflicts. If Sonu had spoken to his mother or Rahiman, the misunderstanding could have been avoided. Thus, honesty and clear communication are essential for maintaining healthy relationships.

2. How does Sonu's visit to Rahiman's home help develop empathy and social awareness in him?

Answer: Sonu's visit to Rahiman's home helps him understand the difficult conditions in which she lives. He realizes the hardships she faces daily, such as lack of basic facilities and resources. This experience makes him more sensitive and compassionate towards her. It teaches him to value what he has and not judge others based on their background. The visit plays an important role in developing empathy and social awareness, helping Sonu become more understanding and kind-hearted.

Ch 3 Lines Written in Early Spring

Word meanings and synonyms

1. **Inextricably** – in a way that cannot be separated

Synonyms: inseparably, inevitably, unavoidably, firmly, indissolubly

2. **Dissociated** – disconnected or separated

Synonyms: detached, separated, disconnected, disjointed, isolated

3. **Intertwined** – closely connected or twisted together

Synonyms: interwoven, entangled, twisted, connected, linked

4. **Deprived** – lacking something essential

Synonyms: lacking, bereft, stripped, without, deficient

5. **Laments** – expresses deep sorrow or regret

Synonyms: mourns, grieves, regrets, bewails, sorrows

6. Staunch – firm and strong in belief

Synonyms: firm, loyal, steadfast, resolute, committed

7. Solace – comfort in times of sadness

Synonyms: comfort, consolation, relief, ease, support

8. Contradictory – showing opposite ideas

Synonyms: conflicting, opposing, inconsistent, contrary, incompatible

9. Alienation – feeling of isolation or separation

Synonyms: isolation, estrangement, separation, detachment, disconnection

10. Manifested – clearly shown or expressed

Synonyms: displayed, expressed, revealed, shown, demonstrated

POST READING

A. 1. The poet is referring to the beautiful things of Nature. There are so many wondrous things in the world of Nature for humans to appreciate and revel in (take pleasure in).

2. One of Wordsworth's fundamental beliefs is that all things in Nature are inextricably (inseparably) linked to each other, as well as the human soul. A spirit of oneness connects all things big and small

3. The poet is filled with pain at the thought that in a world where Nature has woven a braid connecting all things big and small, humans

have dissociated themselves from being a part of this glorious nature. By de-linking themselves from Nature, humans have deprived themselves of endless joys and harmed themselves.

4. As the poet sees Nature in all its beauty, and flora and fauna all around celebrating their joyous existence, his thoughts wander. He laments (expresses sorrow) humankind's loss. The celebration of life he beholds makes him think of the human condition that is lacking this sense of infinite joy.

B. 1. The poet's faith is that every flower, no matter how minute, enjoys the air it breathes. Thereby, celebrates its very existence, however brief that may be. The idea that all things in Nature revel in their own existence, both individually and as a collective entity, is central to the poet's philosophy.

2. The poet is suggesting that this is his staunch (firm) belief. He has no doubt regarding this.

3. The term faith is used in a spiritual manner. Nature, and all things associated with it, was for Wordsworth, symbolic of the Supreme Being. His faith in Nature was as unchanging as man's faith in his Creator. The poet's faith is that Man will find comfort and solace in the bosom (lap) of Nature

4. 'The budding twigs spread out their fans' (an act of celebration of being alive)

'The birds around me hopped....thrill of pleasure'

C. sate (satisfy)

D. It is suggested that there are a multitude of sounds that blend and merge to create the music of Nature. The perfect harmony in Nature is suggested by the word blended.

E. 'In that sweet mood when pleasant thoughts

Bring sad thoughts to the mind.'

These lines seem to present ideas that are contradictory. But by drawing this contrast, the poet is attempting to establish an idea. As the poet looks around at the beautiful and uplifting things in Nature, his thoughts wander towards more profound things. Much that was happening in the world disturbed the poet, and these thoughts came to him, although he had not consciously wanted to think about them.

F. As the birds hopped and played and sang, the poet appreciated and enjoyed their celebration. The poet admits it that he cannot understand their thoughts, but he can feel the pulse of their mood, it is a happy and joyous one. Even a tiny movement which they displayed reflected their thrill, their intense pleasure.

G. The poet laments the human condition. When all of Nature is harmoniously linked together, humans lead a life of alienation and segregation. The poet bemoans (laments) the fact that humans are distanced from Nature. We remain utterly deprived of bountiful(abundant) joys as a consequence of this, and for the poet, this is most pitiful and enough reason for lamentation

H. The birds that the poet observes all around him hopped and played in a joyous celebration of life. The wondrous scene conveyed a message and sparked a thought that was soul stirring The poet sensed that everything, from the swaying of the flowers to the trilling(chirping) of the birds, was an act of profound joy a thrilling sense of being a part of the universe.

I. In the final stanza of the poem, Wordsworth refers to 'Nature's holy plan'. This reflects the spirituality that the poet has always perceived in the world of Nature. God, as the poet perceived him, was manifested in all things around him, and the poet could feel the divine presence everywhere. The poet wishes to remind us of how pitifully deficient and lacking we are. We have disconnected ourselves from the harmonious thread that connects us to Nature, and thereby Divinity. We are not only losing out an infinite joy and a blessed existence, but

also denying ourselves the opportunity of being woven into the divine scheme of things.

J. All around him, the poet observes Nature's beauty in all its splendid manifestations. He hears the banded notes of bird songs and sees the primrose (kind of flower) blossoms. Not only is the natural world beautiful, but it is inherently (naturally) joyous. Every creature is also ready to share that joy all around unselfishly.

Humanity however fails to emulate (copy) what it sees all around. Nature has linked humans to itself but humans have estranged (separated) themselves and ignored Nature's 'holy plan'. Humans can be truly happy in sync with Nature. But as things stand, we choose to live in a state of isolation, distanced and without the connect that binds all things big and small.

Value based

1. What lesson does the poet convey about human life through his comparison with Nature, and how can we apply it in our daily lives?

Answer: The poet highlights that while every element in Nature lives joyfully and in harmony, humans have distanced themselves from this natural connection. This teaches us the value of living in harmony, appreciating simple joys, and staying connected with our surroundings. In our daily lives, we can apply this by spending time in Nature, practicing gratitude, and nurturing positive relationships. By doing so, we can experience inner peace and a more fulfilling life.

2. Why does the poet feel sorrow despite being surrounded by the beauty of Nature, and what moral value does this reflect?

Answer: The poet feels sorrow because he realizes that humans have lost their connection with Nature and, therefore, miss out on true happiness and harmony. This reflects the moral value of awareness and responsibility. It reminds us to be conscious of our actions and their impact on the environment. By respecting and preserving Nature, and

by aligning ourselves with its rhythm, we can lead a balanced and meaningful life.